

Applicant : John K. Roberts et al.
Appln. No. : 09/723,675
Page : 5

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner set forth a requirement for an election of species.

Specifically, the Examiner set forth six separate species including:

1. The species of an interior rearview mirror and lighting assembly.
2. The species of a back-up light assembly.
3. The species of an exterior rearview mirror and lighting assembly.
4. The species of a license plate illuminator.
5. The species of a vehicle reading lamp assembly.
6. The species of a vanity mirror light assembly.

Applicants hereby elect Species 1, namely, the species of an interior rearview mirror and lighting assembly, with traverse.

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 11 is generic to at least species 1 and 3 insofar as it is directed to a rearview mirror assembly without being limited to either an interior or exterior rearview mirror. Accordingly, independent claim 11, along with the claims that depend therefrom, should be examined along with the claims pertaining to an inside rearview mirror. Furthermore, the species directed to a vehicle reading lamp assembly is generic to an inside rearview mirror insofar as the lighting assembly included in the inside rearview mirror assembly may function as a reading lamp. Accordingly, the claims pertaining to the vehicle reading lamp assembly should also be examined along with the elected species, which pertains to an inside rearview mirror. In addition, new independent claim 197 is directed to a vehicle lamp assembly. Applicants submit that new independent claim 197 is generic to all of the species identified by the Examiner. Accordingly, independent claim 197 should be examined

Applicant : John K. Roberts et al.
Appln. No. : 09/723,675
Page : 6

along with the elected species. Applicants note that if any generic claim is allowed, then rejoinder of the non-elected species will be required.

Applicants respectfully submit that the following claims correspond to the elected species: 1-9, 104-112, and 119-121. Applicants submit that the generic claims mentioned above include claims 11-18, 113, 122, 123, 153-169, and 197-206.

Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are allowable over the prior art of record. The Examiner's indication of such allowable subject matter is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN K. ROBERTS ET AL.

By: Price, Heneveld, Cooper,
DeWitt & Litton

3-19-03

Date



Terry S. Callaghan
Registration No. 34 559
695 Kenmoor, S.E./Post Office Box 2567
Grand Rapids, MI 49501
(616) 949-9610

TSC/rsw